

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy & Nanette Grundy to Cut Ribbon for the Grand Re-Opening & Re-Dedication of the J. Owen Grundy Park After Much Community Anticipation, Park Restoration is Complete and Officially Re-Opens to the Public on Thursday

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the **Municipal Council**, the **Department of Public Works**, and the **Division of Architecture** will join Nanette Grundy, widow of famed preservationist J. Owen Grundy, in cutting the ribbon at **11 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at the restored J. Owen Grundy Park, Exchange Place.**

“J. Owen Grundy was an exemplary citizen who is also part of our city’s great history,” said **Mayor Healy**. “This restored and updated park and pavilion will allow residents and visitors to enjoy the amazing views of the Hudson River, the New York City skyline and will also serve as a fantastic gathering place for festivals, concerts and other cultural events.”

With historic-styled lighting, as well as a new railing that will frame views of the skyline on both sides of the Hudson River, Mayor Healy also noted that the newly redesigned park will serve as a suitable reminder of Mr. Grundy’s many accomplishments and dedication to Jersey City.

“J. Owen Grundy is one of our city’s greatest historic preservationists and his spirit is alive today in all of the work we as a city continue to do to preserve our landmarks and our history,” said **Mayor Healy**.

The J. Owen Grundy Park, after twenty-five years of use and weathering, was in need of substantial repairs. As a result of extensive renovation, including a redesigned seawall and promenade extending from Exchange Place down to York Street, the new J. Owen Grundy Park now features the addition of seating for lunch and relaxation, game tables, and a new performance and entertainment pavilion at the end of the park. These new features will provide a great source of family and visitor leisure and fun.

“After years of neglect, it was a goal of mine and this administration to restore this treasured site and to remember the preservationist for whom it is named,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We also wanted to return to the people of Jersey City a place where they can take in the beauty of the Hudson River, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, and the New York City skyline.”

(more)

J. Owen Grundy, a native of Jersey City born in 1911, dedicated much of his life to his hometown. He stood at the forefront of an effort to preserve, restore and instill a spirit of pride in Jersey City's past to all residents and visitors. He urged the Colgate Palmolive Company to build a park at the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) Ferry at the foot of Exchange Place.

This was one of the first steps in the redevelopment of downtown Jersey City. Today the site of the former PRR Terminal is the J. Owen Grundy Green Acres Waterfront Park. It is built on a pedestrian pier at the foot of Montgomery Street that is part of the Hudson River Walkway and named after him as a result.

"The DEP's Green Acres Program provided the initial funding that helped create J. Owen Grundy Park more than 25 years ago, and we are proud once again to have helped in the restoration project we celebrate today," said **DEP Deputy Commissioner John S. Watson, Jr.** "Providing and improving public access to our urban rivers is one of the DEP's highest priorities, and this redevelopment project is sure to attract many residents and visitors for years to come."

Mr. Grundy died in 1985, and was survived by his wife, Nanette Little Grundy, who will join Mayor Healy at the rededication.

Following this event, the Division of Cultural Affairs will kick-off the **Jazz for Lunch Concert Series** featuring **David Robinson**.

The **Jazz for Lunch Concert Series** has assembled a diverse group of musicians that will surely provide a welcome reprieve from the summer heat and one's ordinary daily routines. Performances will be returning to the **J. Owen Grundy Park every Thursday, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.** during the months of July and August. The concerts are sponsored by Goldman Sachs and are free and open to the public.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

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